

Merrick, Valin Victorious Over Challenging Roxbury 7.25-miler

ROXBURY – Ken Merrick, the two-time defending overall champion, and Debby Valin annexed the top positions Saturday, Oct. 25, over a demanding 7.25-mile loop at the Roxbury Road Race Series.

Merrick, 45, of New Fairfield completed the jaunt, which included a trip up the long inclines on Ranney Hill Road and Painter Ridge Road in 47-minutes, 11-seconds – a 6:30-per-mile pace.

Ryan Ripp, 27, of New Milford placed a close second in 47:15.

Valin, 47, was first in the female division and 13th overall in 1:00.44.

The series will continue Saturday, Nov. 1, at 8:30 a.m. with the annual Bob Lewis MidAutumn Championship over a 3.95-mile course. The race is named after a former head director of the series, who still competes each Saturday and also assembles the mile markers and directional arrows before the event.

There will be a \$5 entry fee that can be paid that morning from 7 to 8:20. Proceeds will go to the Roxbury park improvement fund. The top overall male and top female finisher will each receive a \$10 gift certificate to an area running store.

The Roxbury Half Marathon will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, at 8:30 a.m. The field has already closed out through the electronic registration at www.roxburyraces.net.

The races, which are sanctioned through the Roxbury Recreation Commission, start and finish near the Everett Hurlburt Community Park at 18 Apple Lane.

For more information, contact Scott Benjamin, the head director, at BenjaminS@wcsu.edu or (cellular) (860) 354-3521.